

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 5 and 8 because of informalities. The Examiner rejected claims 1–3 and 5–8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,879,844 ("*Yamamoto*"). And the Examiner allowed claim 4.

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1–3 and 5–8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Thus, the objection to and rejection of these claims is moot in view of their cancellation. Claim 4 remains pending.

Amendments

Applicants have amended claim 4 to correct grammatical errors. Applicants note that these amendments are made without regard to any prior art reference and should not be considered a disclaimer of any subject matter to which Applicants are otherwise entitled either through the literal scope of the claims or under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Allowance of claim 4

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 4 is allowable. Applicants note that amendments made to claim 4 clarify any antecedent basis ambiguities and do not affect its allowability.

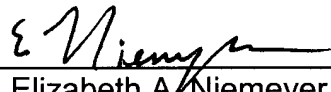
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claim.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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